

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There are provided an image processing apparatus and method which can reliably and quickly prevent forgery. To accomplish this, an image processing
5 apparatus includes a discrimination circuit (111) for discriminating using a plurality of different discrimination processes whether or not image data is a specific image, and a control circuit (112) for
10 controlling the process of the image data in accordance with the discrimination result of the discrimination circuit. The discrimination circuit (111) has a digital watermark detection unit (111a) for
discriminating whether or not specific digital watermark information is embedded in image data, and a
15 feature extraction unit (112a) for discriminating similarity between the feature obtained from the image data, and that of a specific image which is set in advance. The presence/absence of execution of
operations and execution order of the digital watermark
20 detection unit and feature extraction unit are set.